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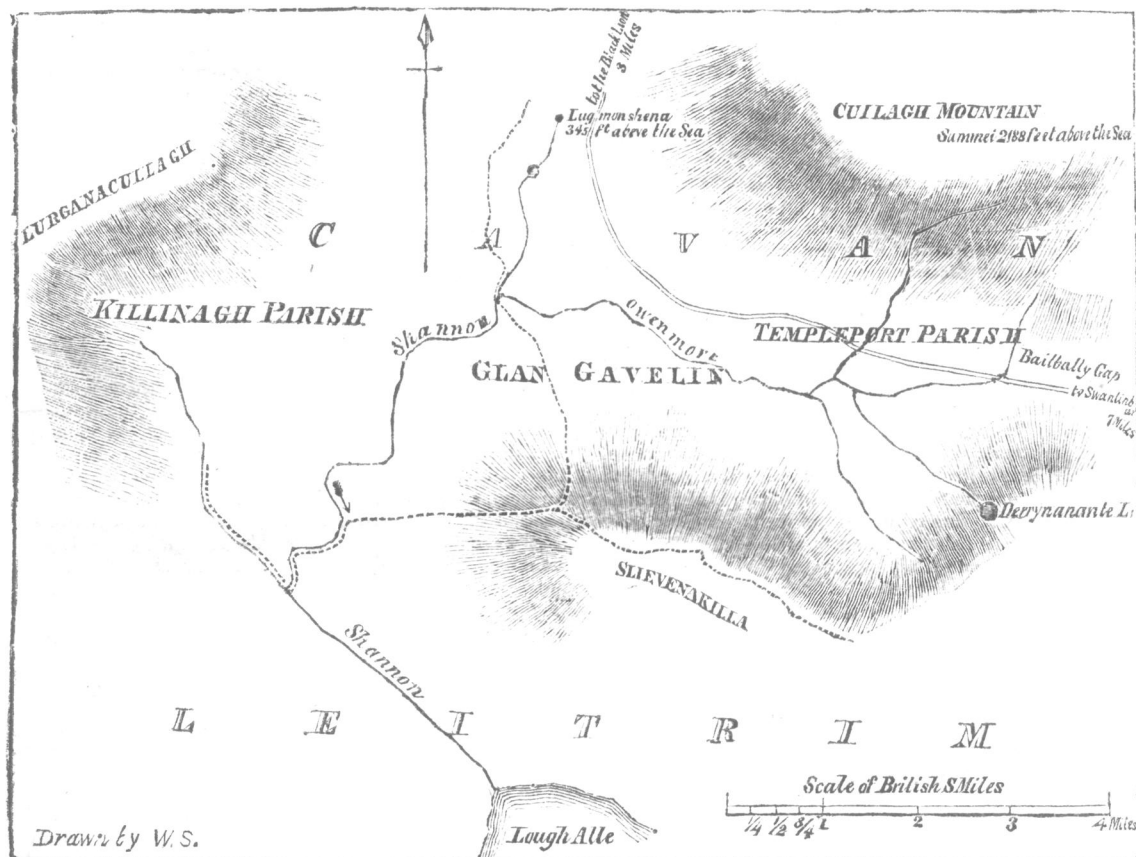
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one loading. His eloquence is a leprosy more pestilent than that of Naaman the Syrian. It is an itch which must be cured rather by Mars than Mercury, though it may bring him at last into a course of sulphur. He is a true renegade; he abjures allegiance to his Prince, to raise himself upon his ruin. He is a rebel of antiquity; for his family were Præadamites, whereof Lucifer was the founder. He endeavours to raise himself as a school-boy does his kite, by pulling against the wind. He points out pretended flaws in the constitution, as sharp housewives show cracks in a pipkin, that he may get it more easily into his own hands. He would repair it as knavish

tinkers mend kettles, for the increase of their own custom, by enlarging a fracture, or working two for one. He is the diseased part of the body politic, in which all its bad humours are gathered; and when he is lanced, they are all let out, and the body is sound again. He is like the walls of the Royal Exchange, hung with every man's business, public and private; and, like them, he promises more than can be performed. His tongue is like a mail-coach; the less weight it carries, the quicker it goes; but, unlike a mail-coach, it runs without a guard. He delights in nothing so much as confusion, and, like a porpoise, he always tumbles before a storm."



SOURCE OF THE SHANNON.

MR. EDITOR—In these times, when the navigation and improvement of the river Shannon occupy so much of the public attention, perhaps a few words relative to the source of that noble river may not be uninteresting; and if the following description, and the small map that accompanies it, prove worthy of a place in your highly useful and national periodical, it will fully compensate me for any little trouble I have been at.

It is generally represented in Irish geography that this river rises in Lough Allen, county of Leitrim; but it is actually nine English miles farther north. It rises in the county of Cavan, barony of Tallyhaw, parish of Templeport, townland of Derrylaghan, at the head of a wild district called Glengavelin, and in the valley between Cuilcagh and Lurganacallagh mountains, close to the base of the former. The source or spring is of a circular form, about fifty feet in diameter, called the Shannon Pot, or more generally Leigmonshena. It boils up in the centre, and a continued stream flows from it, about eight feet wide and two deep in the driest season, and runs about four miles per hour. In rainy weather the flow of water is so much increased, that its banks and all the low ground in its immediate vicinity are overflowed. There are numerous caverns and clefts on the top and sides of Cuilcagh mountain, which receive the rain water; and from the circumstance of no streams descending this side of the mountain, I conclude that the drainage of this vast moun-

tain, combined to its subterranean springs, here find an outlet, and give birth to this river. Two miles from its source, it is joined by the Owenmore or Big River, (as will be seen by reference to the map.*) After winding its way through the valley, and collecting its tributary branches, it falls into Lough Allen about nine miles south of its source, having in this short course swelled to a considerable river, from fifty to sixty yards wide, varying in depth from five to ten feet. I have given on the map the height of the source, also the summit of Cuilcagh above the sea, which will show how comparatively low the former is. The principal falls are before it leaves the county of Cavan, having in the distance of six miles a fall of above one hundred and seventy feet; so that, from Kerry Head to its source, a distance of two hundred and twenty miles, it is capable of improvement for the purposes of navigation.

W. S.

Killesandra, March 1836.

MICK DONNOVAN.

A SKETCH OF IRISH LIFE.

"Now, ye great spalpeen of a bane stalk ye, can't ye see the road straight afore ye, and not be a knocking yere shins agin the bolders any how? Will ye never find the

* That portion of the Shannon in the county of Leitrim is not to scale, having been put in from remembrance.